



PRESS RELEASE

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Lt. Governor joins ISDA in saluting Indiana on National Agriculture Day

INDIANAPOLIS (March 15, 2016) — In recognition of National Agriculture Day, [Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb](#), who serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Ted McKinney, Director of the [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#), are encouraging Hoosiers to show their appreciation for all those involved in the agriculture industry.

"It is well for Hoosiers to remember the vital role that agriculture has played on our history and development as a state," said Lt. Governor Holcomb. "Indiana has always been a leading agricultural state and continues to rank in the top five in the nation in many agricultural products including traditional field crops, livestock and poultry. Today is about recognizing the remarkable men and women on the farms and in our agri-businesses who continue to make this industry strong in Indiana."

[National Ag Day](#) was established by the Agriculture Council of America to recognize the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, associations, schools, universities, agribusinesses and government leaders all come together to celebrate the industry, which continues to have a major impact on our state and national economies.

"Since the very foundation of America, agriculture has been responsible for almost everything we eat, use and wear – growing up on a farm I was able to see that firsthand," McKinney said. "Indiana is fortunate to have the best farming families in the country, and it is important that we recognize them, not just today but every day, and the remarkable contributions they make to our state and nation."

National Ag Day also works to raise awareness and encourages every American to understand how food, fuel and fiber products are produced; value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy; and appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

"As we enter our third century of farming this great land, we are excited about the future of agriculture in our state and the opportunity Indiana has to remain a national leader in agricultural innovation and technology. The families who for generations have been dedicated to feeding our state, nation, and a hungry world remain the backbone of our agricultural industry. Indiana's 21st Century model will only strengthen our state for generations to come," said Lt. Governor Holcomb.

Indiana Agriculture, By the Numbers:

- Indiana agriculture contributes an estimated \$31 billion towards the state's gross domestic product.
- Last year, the total value of agricultural products sold was \$11.2 billion.
- In 2015, 14.7 million acres of farmland were cultivated by Indiana's farming operations.
- Indiana agricultural industries combine to employ more than 107,500 direct workers.
- There were 57,700 farming operations in Indiana in 2015.
- The average size of an Indiana farm is 255 acres.

- 83 percent of Indiana's land is farms, forests and woodland.
- 98 percent of Indiana farms are family-owned.

(USDA NASS and Indiana Business Research Center, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University)

State rankings:

- Indiana ranks **1st** in commercial duck production, wood office furniture and kitchen cabinet manufacturing.
- Indiana ranks **2nd** in popcorn production, tomatoes (for processing), ice cream production, total eggs produced and cropland planted with a cover crop.
- Indiana ranks **3rd** in egg layers inventory, soybeans, spearmint and fresh market cantaloupe.
- Indiana ranks **4th** in turkeys raised and peppermint.
- Indiana ranks **5th** in corn (for grain), hog production, fresh market watermelon and snap beans (for processing).

(USDA NASS)

Visit agday.org for more information about National Agriculture Day.

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ABOUT ISDA

The [Indiana State Department of Agriculture \(ISDA\)](#) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to [Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb](#), who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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